

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OC-06 CCO-00 A-01 OPR-02

SY-05 MCT-01 SSM-03 IO-13 /094 W

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O P 221421Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1855

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 109

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

COMPHIBRON SIX

COM THREE FOUR MAU

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOYKUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 7621

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION SEPTEMBER 22

REF: BEIRUT 7589

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1. SUMMARY. CHTAURA CHOSEN FOR SARKIS SWEARING-IN. SARKIS

SAID ASKING ASSAD TO ATTEND NEXT TRIPARTITE MEETING. GEMAYEL PROPOSES SUSPENDING CONSTITUTION AND HOLDING POPULAR REFERENDUM ON BASIC CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS. ABU IYAD SAYS NON-INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL ARAB AFFAIRS COST PALESTINIANS 30,000 DEAD IN JORDAN, "BUT THE LESSON HAS BEEN LEARNED." NAYEF HAWATMEH SPEAKS OF POSSIBILITY OF FRENCH TROOPS IN LEBANON. KARAME AND SALAM BACK IN LEBANON. PRESS CARRIES STORIES OF PLANNED US MILITARY BASES IN P BANON. VANGUARDS OF LEBANESE ARMY SAY THEY CAN PLAY BIG ROLE IN REESTABLISHING LEBANESE ARMY. GROUND SITUATION EXTREMELY VOLATILE AND VIOLENCE LEVEL ESCALATING IN BEIRUT, NORTH AND CENTER. END SUMMARY.

2. SARKIS INAUGURATION. SPEAKER OF HOUSE KAMAL EL-ASSAD ANNOUNCED CHOICE OF CHTAURA AS INAUGURATION SITE, AND EXPECTS OVER 65 DEPUTIES WILL ATTEND. NATIONAL MOVEMENT STATES POSITION INAUGURATION CAN ONLY OCCUR IN BEIRUT, BUT JUNBLATT FOCUSES PERSONAL OBJECTION ON FACT THAT CHTAURA IS IN SYRIAN-OCCUPIED TERRITORY. CHAMOUN NOW APPEARS INTENDING PLAY PATRON OF SARKIS ROLE ESCORTING PRESIDENT-ELECT TO KFOUR FOR PRE-INAUGURATION CEREMONY WITH FRANGIE AND THEN ACCOMPANYING HIM TO CHTAURA (SEPTEL).

3. TRIPARTITE MEETING. WITH THIRD SYRIAN/PALESTINIAN/ LEBANESE DIALOGUE SESSION STILL EXPECTED SEP 24 AT CHTAURA, AL MOHARRIR SAYS SARKIS HAS REQUESTED PRESIDENT ASSAD ATTEND. HOWEVER, AL MOHARRIR SAYS IT HAD INFORMATION THE CONFERENCE MIGHT BE POSTPONED DUE SEVERAL FACTORS, INCLUDING LACK OF PROGRESS ON NEGOTIATING ISSUES.

4. GEMAYEL ADVOCATES SUSPENDING CONSTITUTION. PIERRE GEMAYEL TELLS PRESS CONFERENCE "IF I WERE ELIAS SARKIS, I WOULD SUSPEND THE CONSTITUTION AND ORGANIZE A REFERENDUM" WHICH COULD "BRING US BY A WHITE REVOLUTION OUT OF THE RED REVOLUTION IN WHICH WE LIVE." REFERENDUM, CONTROLLED BY A CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY OF REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES AS WELL AS "ATHEISTS," SHOULD POSE FOLLOWING CHOICES: 1) A REGIME WHICH IS DEMOCRATIC, REVOLUTIONARY, COMMUNIST, CONFIDENTIAL

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SOCIALIST OR OTHER? 2) A LEBANON WHICH IS COMMUNIST, SOCIALIST, MUSLIM OR CHRISTIAN; 3) IS PARLIAMENTARY REGIME AND LIBERAL ECONOMY DESIRED? 4) IS "LEBANESE FORMULA" OF INTRA-COMMUNAL COEXISTENCE TO BE MAINTAINED? AND 4) "WHAT TYPE OF GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION DO YOU WANT?"

5. PALESTINIAN POSITION. FATAH NUMBER TWO ABU IYAD

SAYS "PALESTINIANS IN JORDAN PAID WITH 30,000 DEAD AS PRICE FOR NON-INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE ARAB STATES, BUT THE LESSON HAS BEEN LEARNED." HE TOLD PSP CONFERENCE IN BEIRUT THAT LEBANESE SITUATION IS DIFFERENT AS PALESTINIANS HAVE FOUND IN LEBANON A LARGE POPULAR BASE AND A SOLID NM LED BY JUNBLATT. ABU IYAD SAID SOLUTION TO PRESENT CRISIS CAN COME IN THREE STEPS: 1) EFFECTIVE HALT TO FIGHTING; 2) BEGINNING OF LEBANESE/ LEBANESE DIALOGUE; AND 3) BEGINNING OF LEBANESE/PALESTINIAN DIALOGUE, FOLLOWED BY RETREAT OF FIGHTERS FROM ALL POSITIONS, SUPERVISED BY LEGAL AUTHORITY UNDER SARKIS. PDFLP LEADER NYEF HAWATMEH ACCUSES US, ISRAEL, JORDAN AND SYRIA OF SEEKING EFFECT CHANGES IN PLO LEADERSHIP. HE SAYS PROBLEMS OF SYRIAN FORCES IN LEBANON RAISE ONCE AGAIN QUESTION OF FRENCH TROOPS IN LEBANON. HAWATMEH NOTES FRENCH HAVE THREE CONDITIONS: 1) AGREEMENT OF ALL PARTIES; 2) AGREEMENT BY ARAB STATES; AND 3) INTERVENTION ONLY DURING A PERIOD OF TRUE CEASE-FIRE.

6. POLITICAL TRAVELERS COME HOME. RASHID KARAME AND SAEB SALAM ARRIVED BEIRUT SEPT 21 FOLLOWING VISITS TO DAMASCUS, CAIRO, AND SAUDI ARABIA. WE UNDERSTAND SALAM SAYS SADAT FULLY SUPPORTING SARKIS. KARAME MET SEP 21 IN DAMASCUS WITH ASSAD AND BOTH KARAME AND SALAM MET FM KHADDAM. ALEXANDER GEMAYEL ALSO BACK IN LEBANON FROM THREE-DAY DAMASCUS VISIT, WHERE AN NAHAR SAYS HE DISCUSSED WITH GENERAL NAJI JAMIL AND IMA MUSA SADR RESETTLEMENT OF TALABAYA AND HOASH BARADA REFUGEES.

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MCT-01 SSM-03 IO-13 /094 W

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O P 221422Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1856
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 110
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
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COMSIXTHFLT
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CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 7621

7. US BASES IN LEBANON ALLEGED. LEFTIST AL MOHARRIR
CLAIMS CONTACTS ESTABLISHED BETWEEN CIA AND "SEVERAL
LEADERS OF THE LEBANESE ISOLATIONIST FRONT" TO
ESTABLISH US MILITARY BASES IN KASRAWAN AREA. PAPER
SAYS UNNAMED LEBANESE WELCOME US BASES ON CONDITION
USG "CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THEIR ENDEAVORS TO ESTABLISH
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A MARONITE STATE IN LEBANON." AL KIFAH AL ARAB SAYS
SECRET AMERICAN CONFERENCE WAS HELD RECENTLY IN
LEBANON'S "MARONITE GHETTO" TO DISCUSS ESTABLISHMENT
OF AMERICAN MILITARY BASES ON LEBANESE COAST.
REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN EMBASSIES IN AMMAN,
DAMASCUS AND BEIRUT SAID TO HAVE DISCUSSED HOW TO
STRENGTHEN THE JORDANIAN AND SYRIAN REGIMES AND A PLAN
"WHICH GIVES CERTAIN ROLES TO THE OFFICERS OF THE
(LEBANESE) G-2 IN AN ATTEMPT TO CONTAIN THE NEW (SARKIS)
REGIME."

8. LEBANESE ARMY. REPRESENTATIVES OF SYRIAN-DOMINATED
"VANGUARDS" OF LEBANESE ARMY HELD SEP 21 PRESS CONFERENCE
IN BEKAA. AN NAHAR QUOTES MAJOR MAHMOUD MATAR, MAJOR SAMIR
ABU ZAHR AND CAPT. BOUSTANI AS SAYING, "WE CAN PLAY A BIG
ROLE AS A NATIONAL ARMY IN THE REESTABLISHMENT OF STABILITY
IN OUR COUNTRY WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE NEW LEGALITY
REPRESENTED BY PRESIDENT SARKIS." VANGUARDS REPRESENTATIVES
HAILED "THE SYRIAN ENDEAVOR TO REESTABLISH SECURITY AND

UNITY" AND CALLED FOR APPLICATION OF CAIRO ACCORDS.

9. GROUND SITUATION: BEIRUT AREA. SITUATION EXTREMELY TENSE WITH SHORT-LIVED OUTBREAKS INTENSE SHELLING AND FIGHTING. EMBASSY HIT BY HEAVY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE EARLY SEPT 22 AS RESULT FRACAS BETWEEN RIVAL LEFTISTS FACTIONS. COMMERCIAL CENTER VERY ACTIVE SINCE LATE SEP 21. TWO MORTAR ROUNDS HIT AUH WOUNDING FOUR PERSONS OUTSIDE HOSPITAL. SNIPERS VERY ACTIVE IN DOWNTOWN AREA AND MUSEUM CROSSING VIRTUALLY CLOSED. LOCAL RADIO STATIONS HAVE BROADCAST SAFETY WARNINGS TO CITIZENS TO STAY OFF STREETS AS INAUGURATION AND END OF RAMADAN APPROACH. IN EASTERN ZONE TENSION CONTINUES AMONG RIGHTIST FACTIONS. IN SUBURBS, CLASHES AT CHIAH/AIN EL-RUMMANEH, HADETH/LAYLAKI, KFACHIMA AND SURROUNDING AREAS. HEAVY SHELLING IN GALERIE SEMAAN AREA, WHERE RIGHTISTS FACE REJECTION FRONT ELEMENTS.

10. GROUND SITUATION ELSEWHERE. HEAVY BOMBARDMENTS CONTINUE IN TRIPOLI AREA. PHALANGISTS SAY TRIPOLI PORT AREA AND ABU SAMRA QUARTER HEAVILY BOMBARDED AND HEAVY FIGHTING IN EASTERN SECTOR OF CITY. VOICE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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LEBANON SAYS BATAEB COASTAL POLICE HAVE SEIZED SHIP LOADED WITH WAR MATERIAL WITH IRAQI MARKINGS DESTINED FOR TRIPOLI. WE UNDERSTAND A SHIP, POSSIBLE ANOTHER, SANK SEP 21 IN TRIPOLI HARBOR FOLLOWING EXPLOSION. IN MOUNTAINS, HEAVY BOMBARDMENTS AT AINTOURA, MTEIN, BOIS DE BOULOGNE, BASKINTA, SANNINE AND SURROUNDING AREAS. SHELLING OF SALIMA, KORNAYEL, BAABDATE AND BROUMMANA ALSO REPORTED AS WELL AS TANK DUELS AT ALEY/KAHALE. SYRIAN AIR COMMANDER GENERAL NAJIL JAMIL AND ARMY COMMANDER IN CHIEF GENERAL HIKMAT CHEHABI INSPECTED SYRIAN TROOPS AT BAALBEK AND IN LEBANESE MOUNTAINS SEP 21. LEFTIST PRESS CONTINUES REPORT WHAT WE BELIEVE ARE GREATLY EXAGGERATED ACCOUNTS OF POPULAR OPPOSITION TO SYRIAN OCCUPATION IN BEKAA. WE HEAR OF EFFORTS ON PART SARG TO COLLECT TAXES AND INDIVIDUAL BORDER OFFICIALS TO EXTORT LARGE BRIBES FROM LEBANESE CROSSING BORDER IN EITHER DIRECTION. LANE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT ELECT, ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE, POLITICAL SITUATION, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT07621
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760357-1219
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760934/aaaabctx.tel
Line Count: 269
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 7589
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 FEB 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE SITUATION SEPTEMBER 22
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, LE, (SARKIS, ELIAS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006